

Real Facts NC 2018 Election Results Report

Real Facts NC released a report today on key NC races in the 2018 midterm elections. Tuesday's results included major victories with the election of Anita Earls to the NC Supreme Court, the defeat of the two "power grab" constitutional amendments, and the election of three Democrats to the NC Court of Appeals.

Democrats also broke the Republican supermajority in the NC House and, barring two potential recounts, look to have done the same in the NC Senate. Notably, first-time candidate Julie von Haefen beat long-time incumbent and chief budget writer Nelson Dollar. Democrats defeated almost all of the incumbent Wake and Mecklenburg Republicans and picked up two Western NC House seats.

Victories were dampened by the losses of close races in New Hanover County despite shifting tides in that region. Furthermore, four constitutional amendments passed, including the photo ID requirement to vote. A similar measure was previously ruled unconstitutional in 2016 for targeting African American voters "[with almost surgical precision.](#)" It is widely expected that Republican lawmakers will attempt to codify some of the same restrictions on acceptable IDs when they return to write the implementing legislation in late November. The right to hunt and fish and the victim's rights amendments also require implementing legislation.

Some of Tuesday's results made history, including the election of Pitt County's first Black District Attorney Faris Dixon and first Black woman Sheriff Paula Dance. In Wake County, Gerald Baker overcame great odds to defeat four-term incumbent sheriff Donnie Harrison. John Arrowood became the first openly LGBTQ person elected to statewide office in NC and the south.

With an eye on potential recounts in Mecklenburg, the Triad, and Wilmington, here is a first look at the 2018 NC election results.

NC Supreme Court

In 2016 Republicans held a 4-3 advantage on the NC Supreme Court that upheld both partisan and racially gerrymandered maps drawn by the Republican-led NCGA. With the sound victory by Anita Earls, a civil rights attorney, the court shifts to a 5-2 Democratic majority through at least 2020. Jackson and Anglin both ran as Republicans election after legislators cancelled party primaries in this year's judicial elections.

| Earls | Jackson | Anglin | W/L |
|--------|---------|--------|-----|
| 49.48% | 34.13% | 16.39% | W |

Headline: "Democrat Anita Earls claims victory in NC Supreme Court race" "Anita Earls, the Democratic candidate for a seat on the North Carolina Supreme Court, claimed victory Tuesday night. With 99 percent of the state's 2,700 voting precincts reporting results at 11:30 p.m., Earls had half of the vote. The two Republicans in the race, including incumbent justice Barbara Jackson, split the other half of the vote. "I promise to apply the law equally to everyone, no matter their race or how much money they have in their pocket," Earls said in her victory statement. "An impartial judiciary that operates without fear or favor is the cornerstone of a healthy and thriving democracy. I look forward to being a part of that work." The race for Supreme Court was the most high-profile statewide race this year, except for possibly the six constitutional amendments on the ballot. The court currently has a 4-3 Democratic majority, and Earls will shift it to a 5-2 Democratic majority." (News & Observer, [11/6/18](#))

Headline: “Democrats Pick Up Seats On NC Supreme Court, Appeals Court” “Democrat Anita Earls won a seat on the North Carolina Supreme Court after besting two Republicans on the ballot. Earls, a civil rights lawyer who worked in the Department of Justice in the Clinton administration, earned 49.5 percent of the vote and 1,779,592 votes. Barbara Jackson finished second in the race with 34.1 percent of the vote. Chris Anglin, whose appearance on the ballot as a Republican was a point of contention, finished third in the race with 16.4 percent of the vote. Republican legislators had sought to prevent him from running in the race because he previously had been registered as a Democrat. Lawmakers passed a law to remove the GOP label from his name on the ballot, but Anglin sued and a judge ruled in his favor.” (WFAE, [11/7/18](#))

Headline: “Democrat Earls Elected To North Carolina High Court” “Democrat Anita Earls has unseated an incumbent to join the North Carolina Supreme Court. The longtime civil rights lawyer from Durham defeated Associate Justice Barbara Jackson and Raleigh lawyer Chris Anglin on Tuesday. Earls' victory means Democrats now hold five of the seven seats on the state's highest court. In 2016, Republicans held a 4-3 advantage. Earls led the Southern Coalition for Social Justice when she helped sue over legislative and congressional districts and challenged a voter ID law. Jackson and Anglin both ran as Republicans in the officially partisan election, but legislators cancelled party primaries this year, leading to multiple candidates. Anglin was a registered Democrat but switched parties just before filing. Unhappy GOP lawmakers passed a last-minute law to keep Anglin's Republican label off ballots, but courts threw it out.” (WUNC, [11/7/18](#))

Editorial: “How Republicans stripped three highly qualified judges of their jobs” “Republican legislators have been monkeying with North Carolina’s judicial system, hoping to politicize the courts in their party’s favor. In Tuesday’s election, one move blew up in their faces, but another went exactly according to plan, and it’s costing Mecklenburg a couple of highly qualified judges. First, the move that backfired. Legislators passed a law in 2017 doing away with judicial primaries. Their motive appeared to be to help reelect Supreme Court Justice Barbara Jackson, a Republican. Without a primary, they reasoned, Republicans would coalesce around the incumbent Jackson while multiple Democrats would jump in and split the Democratic vote in the general election. Then along came Chris Anglin to mess it all up. While Democrats got behind Anita Earls, Anglin switched his party affiliation from Democrat and filed for the seat as a Republican. It was cynical gamesmanship, prompted by Republicans’ own gamesmanship. Republicans then tried to remove Anglin’s party affiliation from the ballot. A court blocked that, so on Tuesday there was Anglin listed as a Republican, alongside the Republican Jackson and the Democratic Earls. What happened was predictable: Voters, who have little cue beyond party on which to base their preference, split the Republican vote. Earls took about 50 percent and Jackson and Anglin split the Republican vote, 34-16. Republican legislators are no doubt kicking themselves for helping give Democrats a 5-2 majority on the high court.” (Charlotte Observer, Editorial, [11/7/18](#))

Editorial: “NC Republicans should stop with the Machiavelli thing. Just be fair” “Anita Earls, who was [elected Tuesday to a seat on the N.C. Supreme Court](#), ought to be happy that legislative Republicans apparently spend so much time reading Niccolo Machiavelli’s 16th century treatise on power, “The Prince.” Machiavelli urged a style of cunning political manipulation that’s been embraced by Senate leader Phil Berger and House Speaker Tim Moore. Only that Machiavelli was shrewder. Berger and Moore can’t resist rigging the rules of the game to what they think will be Republicans’ advantage. But, as The Insider’s Colin Campbell recently showed, [sometimes they outsmart themselves](#). In this case, that led to Earls, a Democrat, winning election to an eight-year term over Barbara Jackson, an incumbent Republican justice who otherwise would have been the favorite to win. The back story: Democrats held a 4-3 majority on the court and only Jackson’s seat was up for reelection this year. Republican hopes of eventually regaining the majority rested on Jackson’s winning re-election.” (News & Observer, Editorial, [11/7/18](#))

NC House

As of 11/7/18 Democrats picked up a total of 9 seats in the House for a total of 54 seats (two Democratic incumbents lost re-election), breaking the Republican supermajority. Republicans now hold a total of 66 seats. Three races are currently eligible for a recount. In two, HD63 (Ross/McAdoo) and HD103 (Brawley/Hunt), the Republicans are up, while in the third, HD98 (Bradford/Clark), the Democrat is up. Notably, chief budget writer Nelson Dollar fell to Democrat and first-time candidate Julie von Haefen. Wake Republicans Chris Malone and John Adcock lost to Democratic challengers as well. In Charlotte, Democrats Brandon Lofton and Wesley Harris defeated incumbents Andy Dulin and Scott Stone and Democrats were also able to pick up two Western NC seats.

| Race | Type | Dem Candidate | Rep Candidate | Dem % | Rep % | W/L |
|--------|---------|-------------------|-------------------|--------|--------|-----|
| HD 1 | Pickup | Ron Wesson | Edward Goodwin | 46.88% | 53.12% | L |
| HD 2 | Pickup | Darryl Moss | Larry Yarborough | 44.73% | 55.38% | L |
| HD 6 | Open | Tess Judge | Bobby Hanig | 44.62% | 55.07% | L |
| HD 7 | Protect | Bobbie Richardson | Lisa Barnes | 42.01% | 57.99% | L |
| HD 8 | Open | Kandie Smith | Brenda Smith | 64.45% | 35.55% | W |
| HD 12 | Protect | George Graham | Chris Humphrey | 44.03% | 55.97% | L |
| HD 19 | Pickup | Marcia Morgan | Ted Davis | 46.79% | 49.42% | L |
| HD 20 | Pickup | Leslie Cohen | Holly Grange | 47.18% | 52.82% | L |
| HD 25 | Open | James Gailliard | John Check | 51.43% | 45.18% | W |
| HD 35 | Pickup | Terrence Everitt | Chris Malone | 51.06% | 45.59% | W |
| HD 36 | Pickup | Julie von Haefen | Nelson Dollar | 49.32% | 47.71% | W |
| HD 37 | Open | Sydney Batch | John Adcock | 49.76% | 48.01% | W |
| HD 40 | Protect | Joe John | Marilyn Avila | 51.49% | 44.75% | W |
| HD 51 | Pickup | Lisa Mathis | John Sauls | 47.11% | 52.98% | L |
| HD 62 | Pickup | Martha Shafer | John Faircloth | 42.58% | 57.89% | L |
| HD 63 | Pickup | Erica McAdoo | Stephen Ross | 49.51% | 50.49% | L* |
| HD 74 | Pickup | Terri LeGrand | Debra Conrad | 45.36% | 53.15% | L |
| HD 75 | Pickup | Dan Besse | Donny Lambeth | 47.03% | 52.97% | L |
| HD 83 | Pickup | Gail Young | Larry Pittman | 47.05% | 52.95% | L |
| HD 93 | Pickup | Ray Russell | Johnathan Jordan | 52.04% | 47.96% | W |
| HD 98 | Pickup | Christy Clark | John Bradford | 50.40% | 49.60% | W* |
| HD 103 | Pickup | Rachel Hunt | Bill Brawley | 49.94% | 50.06% | L* |
| HD 104 | Pickup | Brandon Lofton | Andy Dulin | 51.64% | 48.36% | W |
| HD 105 | Pickup | Wesley Harris | Scott Stone | 52.16% | 47.84% | W |
| HD 115 | Protect | John Ager | Amy Evans | 58.24% | 41.76% | W |
| HD 116 | Protect | Brian Turner | Marilyn Brown | 54.89% | 45.11% | W |
| HD 118 | Pickup | Rhonda Schandeval | Michelle Presnell | 42.75% | 57.25% | L |

| | | | | | | |
|--------|--------|---------------|---------------|--------|--------|---|
| HD 119 | Pickup | Joe Sam Queen | Mike Clampitt | 52.30% | 47.70% | W |
|--------|--------|---------------|---------------|--------|--------|---|

**Currently eligible for recount*

HD1 (Bertie, Chowan, Perquimans, Tyrell, Washington)

Ed Goodwin beat Democrat Ron Wesson, despite Wesson winning the majority of votes in his home county. “In NC House District 1, Republican Edward C. Goodwin has edged out Ronald (Ron) Wesson, a Democrat. The unofficial tally has Goodwin with 14,649 votes compared to 12,927 for Wesson. Wesson won his home county by a 4,316 to 2,489 count. He also earned the majority of the votes in Washington County (2,662 to 2,056). Goodwin, a former Chowan County Commissioner, was named on the majority of ballots in Chowan (3,088 to 2,392); Camden (2,779 to 1,141); Perquimans (3,551 to 1,833); and Tyrell (686 to 583).” (Roanoke-Chowan News Herald, [11/6/18](#))

Goodwin, former Ferry Division Director, received 52.12 percent of the vote. “In House District 1, former Chowan County Chairman and Ferry Division director Ed Goodwin, a Republican, defeated his Democratic opponent Ron Wesson, a Bertie County commissioner. Goodwin had 14,649 votes to Wesson’s 12,927, or 53.12 percent to 46.88 percent. That was with 2,705 of 2,706 precincts reporting. Goodwin will replace Steinburg in the seat, which has been redrawn to include Bertie, Camden, Chowan, Perquimans, Tyrell and Washington counties.” (Daily Advance, [11/6/18](#))

HD2 (Person, Granville)

Incumbent Republican Yarborough led the race against Democrat Darryl Moss with 57 percent of the vote. “At the state level, incumbent state Rep. Larry Yarborough held a comfortable lead over former Creedmoor mayor Darryl Moss in the race for the District 2 seat. With all but one of the 11 precincts reporting in Person County, Yarborough was leading 57 percent to 43 percent, a difference of more than 1,700 votes. Yarborough was also leading Moss in Granville County by a 52-48 margin in Moss’ home county.” (Courier-Times, [11/7/18](#))

HD6 (Beaufort, Dare, Hyde, Washington)

Currituck Board of Commissioners Chairman Bobby Hanig defeated Democrat Tess Judge. “Other competitive races in the region also broke Republicans’ way. Former Ferry Division director Ed Goodwin, of Chowan, beat Ron Wesson, a Democrat and Bertie County commissioner, for House District 1. In House District 6, which includes the Outer Banks, Currituck Board of Commissioners Chairman Bobby Hanig defeated Dare County Democrat Tess Judge, who lost by 10 points despite a massive cash advantage.” (Daily Advance, [11/7/18](#))

Hanig defeated Judge by a margin of 10 points. “In House District 6, Currituck Board of Commissioners Chairman Bobby Hanig, a Republican, defeated Democrat Tess Judge, of Dare, 18,437 votes to 15,045, or 55 percent to 44.93 percent. Hanig will succeed state Rep. Beverly Boswell, R-Dare, in the seat, whom he defeated in a May primary, and represent Currituck, Dare, Hyde and Pamlico counties.” (Daily Advance, [11/6/18](#))

HD7 (Franklin, Nash)

Lisa Stone Barnes defeated incumbent Democrat Bobbie Richardson with 58 percent of the vote. “While Democrats on Tuesday retook the U.S. House and broke the Republican supermajority hold on the General Assembly, Barnes defeated longtime Democrat Bobbie Richardson with 58 percent of the vote. Barnes often said while campaigning from Youngsville to Middlesex that the district wanted a different voice, and voters agreed. She will soon add her conservative voice to the House din.” (Rocky Mount Telegram, [11/8/18](#))

HD8 (Pitt, Wilson)

Kandie Smith won the House District 8 seat with 15,217 votes. “Democrat Kandie Smith won the newly created House 8 seat with 15,217 votes to Republican Brenda Letchworth Smith’s 8,395 votes, according to results posted on the State Board of Elections website. The outcome won’t be finalized until votes are canvassed on Nov. 16.” (Reflector, [11/6/18](#))

Kandie Smith defeated Republican Brenda Smith with 65 percent of the vote. “Councilwoman Kandie Smith won the North Carolina House Representative District 8 seat against Brenda Smith with 65 percent of the vote. This means Kandie Smith will step down from the Greenville City Council District 1 position in early January and then take office for the state House seat. Smith will attend the Greenville City Council meeting on December 10 and 13.” (WNCT, [11/7/18](#))

HD12 (Craven, Greene, Lenoir)

Chris Humphrey received 14,310 votes, beating incumbent George Graham’s 10,950 votes. “The district which includes all of Lenoir County and five precincts in southern Pitt County, previously was held by George Graham. According to the unofficial vote totals, which were released about 1 p.m. Wednesday, Humphrey received 14,310 votes to Graham’s 10,950 votes. Humphrey thanked voters and asked that Graham be shown “kindness and respect” for his service. “Our community is filled with kind, amazing people from many walks of life. ... We would all benefit from remembering that reasonable people can have differing views, and still love each other,” Humphrey said. “I also believe we share many goals for our community. We all want what is best for our children, and future generations.” (Greenville Daily Reflector, [11/8/18](#))

After a technical glitch with Lenoir County voting machines, Humphrey was determined the winner of House District 12. “On the GOP side, Dr. Greg Murphy, who was first appointed to the House District 9 seat in late 2015, won his second full term on Thursday. He and Smith will be joined in the House by Chris Humphrey of Kinston who, after a technical glitch involving Lenoir County voting machines, was declared the winner of the contest for the reconfigured House District 12 seat. The district which includes all of Lenoir County and five precincts in southern Pitt County, previously was held by George Graham.” (Greenville Daily Reflector, [11/8/18](#))

HD19 (New Hanover)

Incumbent Ted Davis narrowly defeated Democratic opponent Marcia Morgan. “N.C. Rep. Ted Davis Jr., R-New Hanover, won narrowly defeated Democratic opponent Marcia Morgan to retain his District 19 seat in Tuesday’s midterm election. The incumbent, who represents southern and eastern New Hanover County, received 17,838 votes, 49 percent of the turnout. After out-raising Davis in campaign funding, Morgan had 16,886 votes, less than a thousand short of Davis. Libertarian David Perry earned 3 percent of the vote. Davis said he is not surprised by how close the race was at the end.” (Star News Online, [11/7/18](#))

Davis received only 952 more votes than Morgan. “Ted Davis, Jr. of District 19 edged out Democratic challenger Marcia Morgan by 952 votes. That’s only about 2.5 points. Holly Grange of District 20 fought off Democrat Leslie Cohen – by a slightly larger margin of 2004 votes or about 5.5 points. Just two years ago, both Davis and Grange ran unopposed.” (WHQR, [11/7/18](#))

HD20 (New Hanover)

Holly Grange defeated Democrat Leslie Cohen, earning 52.82 percent of the vote. “Grange, a Republican, first won the seat by running unopposed in 2016. The district spans much of northern New

Hanover County. “There’s a lot of work yet to be done for this part of the state with the issues of the environment, with infrastructure and with business development,” Grange said Tuesday at Marina Grill, where local Republicans were holding their watch party. Of 35,588 votes, 18,796 -- or 52.82 percent -- went to Grange.” (Star News Online, [11/6/18](#))

After running unopposed for her first term in the House, Grange beat Cohen by 2004 votes. “North Carolina House Districts in the Cape Fear region saw incumbents keep their seats. But in some cases, they just squeaked through. Ted Davis, Jr. of District 19 edged out Democratic challenger Marcia Morgan by 952 votes. That’s only about 2.5 points. Holly Grange of District 20 fought off Democrat Leslie Cohen – by a slightly larger margin of 2004 votes or about 5.5 points. Just two years ago, both Davis and Grange ran unopposed.” (WHQR, [11/7/18](#))

HD25 (Franklin, Nash)

James Gailliard, pastor of Word Tabernacle Church, defeated Republican John Check. “Democrat James Gailliard, pastor of Word Tabernacle Church, said he will go to Raleigh and do what he's done in Rocky Mount, and that's build coalitions. “I'm going to find like-minded Democrats and like-minded Republicans, build a bipartisan coalition and do what's best for the people of North Carolina,” Gailliard said. Gailliard defeated Republican John Check in a race to capture the House seat left vacant by a retiring Jeff Collins, who hand-picked Check and his replacement.” (Rocky Mount Telegram, [11/7/18](#))

HD35 (Wake)

Incumbent Republican Chris Malone lost to Democrat Terence Everitt. “Democrats won in a trio of suburban Wake County districts that were a real emphasis for the party, taking out Reps. Nelson Dollar, Chris Malone and John Adcock. Dollar is a key member of the GOP majority, serving as the House appropriations chairman. The winners were Julie von Haefen, Terence Everitt and Sydney Batch, respectively.” (WRAL, [11/7/18](#))

In a rematch from 2016, Everitt beat Malone by earning 51 percent of the vote. “Also in Wake County, Republican Rep. Chris Malone lost to Democrat Terence Everitt in a rematch from the 2016 election. Everitt brought in 51 percent of the vote. Another Wake County loss in the House came in District 37, where the newly-appointed Rep. John Adcock lost to Democrat Sydney Batch. Batch won 49 percent of the vote, and Adcock received 48 percent. The Libertarian candidate in that race, Guy Meilleur, received 2 percent. Adcock had replaced Republican Rep. Linda Hunt Williams, who resigned earlier this year.” (Courier-Tribune, [11/7/18](#))

HD36 (Wake)

Incumbent Republican Nelson Dollar lost to Democrat Julie von Haefen. “Democrats won in a trio of suburban Wake County districts that were a real emphasis for the party, taking out Reps. Nelson Dollar, Chris Malone and John Adcock. Dollar is a key member of the GOP majority, serving as the House appropriations chairman. The winners were Julie von Haefen, Terence Everitt and Sydney Batch, respectively.” (WRAL, [11/7/18](#))

Von Haefen received 49 percent of the vote while Dollar received only 47 percent of the vote. “Most of the key upsets in both the House and Senate were in the urban districts of Wake and Mecklenburg counties. In Wake County, Rep. Nelson Dollar, the chief budget writer in the House, lost his bid for re-election to Julie von Haefen in House District 36. Von Haefen had 49 percent of the vote, compared to Dollar’s 47 percent. Robyn Haley Pegram, the Libertarian candidate in the race, garnered nearly 3 percent of the vote.” (Courier-Tribune, [11/7/18](#))

HD37 (Wake)

John Adcock lost to Democrat Sydney Batch. “Democrats won in a trio of suburban Wake County districts that were a real emphasis for the party, taking out Reps. Nelson Dollar, Chris Malone and John Adcock. Dollar is a key member of the GOP majority, serving as the House appropriations chairman. The winners were Julie von Haefen, Terence Everitt and Sydney Batch, respectively.” (WRAL, [11/7/18](#))

Adcock, who was recently appointed to the legislature, lost to Batch after Batch received 49 percent of the vote. “Another Wake County loss in the House came in District 37, where the newly-appointed Rep. John Adcock lost to Democrat Sydney Batch. Batch won 49 percent of the vote, and Adcock received 48 percent. The Libertarian candidate in that race, Guy Meilleur, received 2 percent. Adcock had replaced Republican Rep. Linda Hunt Williams, who resigned earlier this year.” (Courier-Tribune, [11/7/18](#))

HD40 (Wake)

Headline: “Blue waves in urban North Carolina help Democrats break GOP ‘supermajorities’” (Charlotte Observer, [11/7/18](#))

HD51 (Harnett, Lee)

John Sauls defeated Lisa Mathis by earning 59 percent of the vote. “One of the closest races of the night was the race for District 51 in the North Carolina House of Representatives, where Republican John Sauls was in a tight fight with challenger Lisa Mathis. Mr. Sauls won the race with approximately 59 percent of the vote at night’s end.” (Daily Record, [11/7/18](#))

HD62 (Guilford)

John Faircloth beat Martha Shafer 22,424 to 16,627. “In District 62, incumbent John Faircloth, a Republican, beat Martha Shafer, a former Cone Health executive and Democrat, 22,424 to 16,627 or 57 percent of the votes.” (Greensboro News & Record, [11/7/18](#))

Faircloth won 57 percent to 43 percent. “Republican District 62 state Rep. John Faircloth won a fifth term by defeating Democratic challenger Martha Shafer. Faircloth had 22,454 votes for 57 percent while Shafer finished with 16,651 for 43 percent. Faircloth didn’t quite make it to landslide territory, but it was a comfortable win in a race that some had predicted would be much tighter. Faircloth is a former High Point police chief and High Point city councilmember, but he grew up in Greensboro and got his start in the Greensboro Police Department, so in a district that represents parts of both cities he is hard to beat.” (Rhino Times, [11/8/18](#))

HD63 (Alamance)*

Ross barely defeated Erica McAdoo with 50.49 percent of the vote. Republican Rep. Stephen Ross, with 50.49 percent of the votes, barely defeated Democrat Erica McAdoo for the N.C. House District 63 seat, based on unofficial election results Tuesday, Nov. 6. This will be Ross’ fourth term as representative. Ross, 67, was a former city council member for the city of Burlington, where he served four terms. He was also the former mayor of Burlington for two terms. As a representative, he is the Appropriations Chairman for the Agriculture-Natural and Economic Committee, and the Chairman of Commerce and Job Development. (Burlington Times News, [11/6/18](#))

Erica McAdoo has not conceded the race which is “too close to call.” “Erica McAdoo (D) said that she has not conceded to her opponent, incumbent Stephen Ross '73 (R). With only a couple hundred votes between the two, McAdoo said she is still evaluating the option of a recount. Absentee and provisional ballots are still coming in, which could determine the winner of the race. The North Carolina State Board of Elections reports 50.49 percent of votes going to Ross '73 and 49.51 percent to McAdoo. North Carolina does not have an automatic recount policy, but the margin is close enough for a candidate to call for a recount.” (Elon News Network, [11/6/18](#))

HD74 (Forsyth)

Terri LeGrand led incumbent Debra Conrad early in the night, but Conrad eventually pulled ahead. “In another high-profile race, Terri Elizabeth LeGrand had 52 percent of the early voting ballots in House District 74, or 10,239, compared with three-time incumbent Republican Rep. Debra Conrad at 48 percent, or 9,445 votes. By the end of the night, though, with 22 of 23 precincts in, Conrad was leading LeGrand 18,584 to 15,505.” (Winston-Salem Journal, [11/6/18](#))

HD75 (Forsyth)

In a race with the most potential to be competitive in Forsyth, incumbent Donny Lambeth beat Democratic challenger Dan Besse 17,146 to 15,224. “The legislative race considered with the potential to be the most competitive is House District 75 in which three-time incumbent Donny Lambeth was challenged by Winston-Salem Democratic councilman Dan Besse. With 98 percent of the precincts reported, Lambeth led Besse 17,146 to 15,224.” (Winston-Salem Journal, [11/6/18](#))

Lambeth “escaped with a narrow victory. “In the battle for District 75 in the N.C. House of Representatives, incumbent Donny C. Lambeth escaped with a narrow victory over Dan Besse late on Tuesday night. From the time the votes started rolling in until the race was officially called, Besse and Lambeth were separated by only a few votes. With more than 60 percent of all the precincts reported, the two were only separated by one percentage point. At the time of publication, final totals showed Lambeth finished with 17,400 votes and Besse with 15,336. Lambeth, a Republican, has served as the Representative for House District 75 since 2012. Before that, he served as president of the Lexington Medical Center and Davie Hospital until his retirement in 2012. He is probably most known for his stint as a member of the Winston-Salem Forsyth County Schools Board of Education, where he served for 18 years as board chairman. As a member of the legislature, Lambeth worked to reform Medicaid and was instrumental in restructuring the state’s mental health program. Lambeth recently received the North Carolina Legislator of the Year award by the National Mental Health Association for his work.” (Winston-Salem Chronicle, [11/8/18](#))

HD83 (Cabarrus, Rowan)

Larry Pittman edged out Democratic challenger Gail Young, who earned 47 percent of the vote. “Larry Pittman will keep his seat for N.C. House of Representative’s 83rd district. Pittman, who was appointed to the seat in 2011 by the Cabarrus County GOP after Republican Jeff Barnhart stepped down, has served three-and-a-half terms in office. He was elected in 2012 and has controlled the seat ever since. This time around, Pittman earned about 14,600 votes, or almost 53 percent of ballots cast. He edged out Democratic challenger Gail Young, who earned 47 percent of the votes at 13,000 ballots. “I feel pretty good,” Pittman said. “It was a big effort to get rid of me, and it fell short, and that always feels good.” In Cabarrus County, Pittman earned just 48.6 percent of the vote while Young garnered 51 percent.” (Independent Tribune, [11/7/18](#))

Pittman received 73 percent of the vote in Rowan County but Young won 51 percent of the vote in Cabarrus County. “Pittman was up against Democrat Gail Young, a leadership training consultant, in a

split county district. Pittman received 73 percent of the vote in Rowan County, but in Cabarrus County, Young won 51 percent. With the combination of the counties, Pittman received 52 percent of the vote. "I'm pretty happy," Pittman said. "Hard work was put in both counties." (Salisbury Post, [11/7/18](#))

HD93 (Ashe, Watauga)

Democrat Ray Russell defeated Republican incumbent Jonathan Jordan; Russell carried Watauga County while Jordan carried Ashe. "It was a big night for the weatherman. In his first bid for political office, Democrat Ray Russell defeated incumbent Republican Jonathan C. Jordan in the North Carolina House of Representatives District 93 race. Unofficial vote totals had Russell receiving 18,522 votes to Jordan's total of 17,068. Jordan carried Ashe County, winning with 7,089 votes to Russell's 4,489. However, in Watauga County, Jordan just could not make up the difference. Russell tallied 14,033 votes to Jordan's total of 9,979. Russell spoke to reporters at Ransom Café where he along with several other victorious Democrats celebrated their victories on Tuesday night." (HC Press, [11/7/18](#))

Russell, who runs Ray's Weather Center, won 52 percent of the vote. "A weatherman's surprise win in a North Carolina state house race helped break the Republican's super majority in that chamber, clouding what had been a sunny day for the GOP. Ray Russell, known to thousands in Northwest North Carolina for his weather predictions on Ray's Weather Center, beat Republican incumbent Jonathan Jordan in the N.C. House's 93rd District, winning 52 percent of the vote to Jordan's 48 percent in complete but unofficial results. The 93rd District, which covers Ashe and Watauga counties, flipped to the Democrats for the first time since 2010." (Winston-Salem Journal, [11/8/18](#))

HD98 (Mecklenburg)*

Democratic challenger Christy Clark defeated incumbent John Bradford by 317 votes. "And in a cliffhanger, Democratic challenger Christy Clark defeated NC House District 98 incumbent John Bradford, a Republican, by 317 votes.. With all 12 precincts reporting at 12:45 am, Clark, from Huntersville, had 50.4 percent of the vote to Bradford's 49.6 percent." (Cornelius Today, [11/6/18](#))

The seat has been long held by Republicans and Bradford is seeking a recount. "In another close north Mecklenburg race, Democrat Christy Clark beat incumbent John Bradford by just 333 votes in the 98th House District — a seat long held by Republicans. That's close enough for Bradford to seek a recount. Clark raised more money than Bradford and focused on his early support for toll lanes on I-77, though he has since opposed the NCDOT project." (WFAE, [11/7/18](#))

HD103 (Mecklenburg)*

In the closest race in Mecklenburg, Bill Brawley held a lead of 52 votes over Rachel Hunt. "Democrats came into this election holding 11 of Mecklenburg's 17 state legislative seats. The closest race — decided by 52 votes — ended Wednesday morning with incumbent Republican Bill Brawley edging Rachel Hunt, daughter of former four-term Gov. Jim Hunt. Brawley had 50.07% of the vote to Hunt's 49.93%, well within the margin for seeking a recount. Ousted Republicans from Mecklenburg included Sen. Jeff Tarte, who lost to Natasha Marcus; Rep. Andy Dulin, defeated by Brandon Lofton; and Scott Stone, ousted by Wesley Harris. Christy Clark beat John Ray Bradford in another local House race." (Charlotte Business Journal, [11/7/18](#))

Hunt became the first legislative candidate to raise more than \$1.2 million. "GOP Rep. Bill Brawley also held a narrow lead over Democrat Rachel Hunt. Hunt became the first Mecklenburg legislative candidate to raise more than \$1.2 million. Her effort to unseat Brawley was one of several urban and suburban contests targeted by Democrats. Only 52 votes separated the candidates. Brawley had 50.07

percent of the vote and Hunt had 49.93 percent. Brawley co-chairs the influential House Finance Committee. Hunt is the daughter of former Gov. Jim Hunt, who worked a poll at a Matthews precinct Tuesday.” (Charlotte Observer, [11/6/18](#))

HD104 (Mecklenburg)

Dulin joined other Charlotte Republican legislators in trailing his Democratic challenger Brandon Lofton. “While Republicans maintained firm control over North Carolina’s Senate and House, they’re likely to get less support from the Charlotte area. Mecklenburg County Republican Sen. Jeff Tarte and Reps. Andy Dulin, Scott Stone and John Bradford all trailed Democrats in unofficial results. Republican Sen. Dan Bishop and Rep. Bill Brawley held leads.” (Charlotte Observer, [11/7/18](#))

HD105 (Mecklenburg)

Wesley Harris defeated Scott Stone 52 percent to 47 percent. “House District 105 Wesley Harris, D 52.15% Scott Stone, R 47.85%.” (Charlotte Observer, [11/6/18](#))

HD115 (Buncombe)

Democratic incumbent John Ager defeated Republican challenger Amy Evans. “Incumbent John Ager, a Democrat, keeps his seat in District 115, defeating Republican challenger Amy Evans.” (WLOS, [11/6/18](#))

Ager was expected to face a tough contest. “Ager and Turner were expected to face the toughest contests in Buncombe County. Ager’s 115th House District has been closely balanced between Democrats and Republicans in the past and the 116th District that Turner won has voted Republican in other contests.” (Citizen Times, [11/6/18](#))

HD116 (Buncombe)

Democratic incumbent Brian Turner defeated Republican challenger Marilyn Brown 55 percent to 45 percent. “House 116 - 100% reporting *Brian Turner (D) - 55% Marilyn Brown (R) - 45%” (Citizen Times, [11/6/18](#))

Turner was expected to face a tough contest; the 116th district has voted Republican in other contests. “Ager and Turner were expected to face the toughest contests in Buncombe County. Ager’s 115th House District has been closely balanced between Democrats and Republicans in the past and the 116th District that Turner won has voted Republican in other contests.” (Citizen Times, [11/6/18](#))

HD118 (Haywood, Madison, Yancey)

Incumbent Republican Michele Presnell will return for a fourth term, beating challenger Rhonda Schandavel for the second time. “Republican legislator Michele Presnell, R-Burnsville, handily retained her seat in the House District 118 race which pitted her once again against Canton resident Rhonda Schandavel. Presnell led the ticket both in Haywood and the legislative district, which also includes Madison and Yancey counties.

- In Haywood, Presnell received 8,951 votes to Schandavel’s 6,515.
- Districtwide, Presnell’s count was 19,312 compared to Schandavel’s 14,425.” (The Mountaineer, [11/7/18](#))

HD119 (Haywood, Jackson, Swain)

“Queen wins election in back-and-forth NC House District” “A familiar face wins a new term in Raleigh. Democrat Joe Sam Queen has represented North Carolina’s 119 House District before. Two years ago, he lost to Republican Mike Clampitt but won the seat back on Election Day. Clampitt says he accomplished a lot in his two years. He notes his assistance in getting federal money for Swain County's Road to Nowhere. “We got \$4 million a year ago, and then we got the other \$35 million this year,” Clampitt says. He cites financial help for Western Carolina University's steam plant, as well. Queen says, in 2016, he focused on electing a Democratic governor. This year he says he ran a strong campaign with a targeted agenda, anticipating working both sides of the aisle in Raleigh.” (WLOS, [11/7/18](#))

Queen took back NC House seat with 15,537 to Clampitt’s 14,166. “Joe Sam Queen, D-Waynesville, has reclaimed his former seat in the N.C. House and defeated sitting Rep. Mike Clampitt, R-Bryson City. Once the results looked solid Tuesday night, Queen addressed a crowd of Democratic Party volunteers and supporters with his fiery populist rhetoric. “I represent everybody. I have stumped on this the whole way,” Queen said. “It is better education for everybody. It is healthcare for everybody. It is a clean and healthy environment for everybody. It is broadband for everybody. That's what we are going to do if I have anything to do with it the next two years.” This year was the fourth straight rematch between Queen and Clampitt. Queen prevailed in 2012 and 2014, but lost by a hair to Clampitt in 2016. When all precincts reported Tuesday, Queen received 15,537 to Clampitt's 14,166.” (The Mountaineer, [11/7/18](#))

NC Senate

As of 11/7/18 Democrats picked up a total of 6 seats in the Senate for a total of 21 seats to break the Republican supermajority in the Senate. Three races where the Democratic candidate is up are currently eligible for recount, SD9 (Lee/Peterson), SD19 (Meredith/DeViere), and SD27 (Wade/Garrett). Notably, Democrats Natasha Marcus and Sam Searcy, besting powerful incumbents Jeff Tarte and Tamara Barringer.

| Race | Type | Dem Candidate | Rep Candidate | Dem % | Rep % | W/L |
|-------|--------|-----------------|------------------|--------|--------|-----|
| SD 1 | Open | Cole Phelps | Bob Steinburg | 46.75% | 53.25% | L |
| SD 9 | Pickup | Harper Peterson | Michael Lee | 48.49% | 48.45% | W* |
| SD 13 | Pickup | John Campbell | Danny Britt | 37.21% | 62.79% | L |
| SD 17 | Pickup | Sam Searcy | Tamara Barringer | 50.44% | 46.53% | W |
| SD 18 | Pickup | Mack Paul | John Alexander | 47.42% | 49.85% | L |
| SD 19 | Pickup | Kirk DeViere | Wesley Meredith | 50.26% | 49.74% | W* |
| SD 24 | Pickup | JD Wooten | Rick Gunn | 46.06% | 53.94% | L |
| SD 25 | Pickup | Helen Mills | Tom McInnis | 42.78% | 57.22% | L |
| SD 27 | Pickup | Michael Garrett | Trudy Wade | 50.43% | 49.57% | W* |
| SD 41 | Pickup | Natasha Marcus | Jeff Tarte | 56.77% | 43.23% | W |

*Currently eligible for recount

SD1 (Beaufort, Camden, Currituck, Dare, Gates, Hyde, Pasquotank, Perquimans)

Steinburg captured Bill Cook's Senate seat by a margin of 53.25 to 46.75 percent. "Northeastern North Carolina elected state Rep. Bob Steinburg, R-Chowan, its state senator on Tuesday, and also sent two Republicans and one Democrat to the N.C. House of Representatives, based on unofficial results. With 2,705 of 2,706 of precincts reporting, Steinburg, a three-term House lawmaker, defeated Democrat Cole Phelps, a Washington County commissioner, following a costly and hard-fought campaign for the recently redrawn Senate District 1 seat. Steinburg will succeed Sen. Bill Cook, R-Beaufort, who is retiring. Steinburg collected 39,554 votes to Phelps' 34,729, or a margin of 53.25 to 46.75 percent." (Elizabeth City Daily Advance, [11/6/18](#))

Headline: "GOP legislative winners hope to avoid gridlock" "Northeastern North Carolina's newly elected state lawmakers thanked their supporters on Wednesday, and are hoping to avoid partisan gridlock after Democrats won enough seats to break Republicans' supermajority in the General Assembly Unofficial election results from Tuesday show that three-term state Rep. Bob Steinburg, R-Chowan, won election to the open seat in Senate District 1. He defeated Washington County Commissioner Cole Phelps, a Democrat, for the seat Other competitive races in the region also broke Republicans' way. Former Ferry Division director Ed Goodwin, of Chowan, beat Ron Wesson, a Democrat and Bertie County commissioner, for House District 1. In House District 6, which includes the Outer Banks, Currituck Board of Commissioner Chairman Bobby Hanig defeated Dare County Democrat Tess Judge, who lost by 10 points despite a massive cash advantage." (Elizabeth City Daily Advance, [11/7/18](#))

SD9 (New Hanover)*

Provisional ballots could factor in tight Lee-Peterson race. Peterson's victory was by a margin of just 36 votes. "New Hanover County will have to pore through more than 1,600 provisional and

absentee ballots that potentially could affect the outcome of the tight race for state Senate between Republican Sen. Michael Lee and Democrat Harper Peterson. The county received more than 1,200 provisional ballots, which are ballots cast when a voter's eligibility is uncertain on Election Day and are not counted until county canvasses, which will be held on Nov. 16. The county also received about 400 absentee ballots either on Election Day or afterward, but postmarked by Election Day, said Rae Hunter-Havens, New Hanover County elections director. With a razor-thin margin of just 36 votes, the contest between Peterson and Lee could be affected by those additional ballots. Peterson edged out Lee, though results are not official until the canvass. There were 85,847 votes cast in the race, which also included Libertarian candidate Ethan Bickley." (Wilmington Star-News, [11/8/18](#))

SD13 (Columbus, Robeson)

Incumbent Republican Danny Britt won re-election in District 13. "Sen. Danny Britt has won re-election to a second term representing District 13 in the General Assembly. The Robesonian has been told that Britt, a Republican, has built a lead that is basically insurmountable in his race against John Campbell, a Democrat who is on the Board of Education for the Public Schools of Robeson County. District 13 includes all of Robeson and Columbus counties. Britt works as a lawyer and Campbell is a church pastor. The race was a bit nasty with Campbell accusing Britt of dirty politics for campaign ads saying Campbell had bounced checks, been found guilty of mortgage fraud and once took school system money for a conference he didn't attend. Campbell has argued that Britt, as a Republican, is anti-education and had worked to deny a half million North Carolina residents Medicaid." (Robesonian, [11/6/18](#))

SD17 (Wake)

Sam Searcy won a Wake Senate seat, besting incumbent Republican Tamara Barringer. "When Sam Searcy takes his seat representing Wake County in the North Carolina Senate, he'll be building on a foundation laid down at West Henderson High. Searcy, a native of Etowah and 1995 graduate of West, won an upset for a Wake County state Senate seat Tuesday night, flipping the District 17 seat and helping to end Republicans' veto-proof majority in the statehouse. Starting out at Etowah Elementary and then Rugby Middle, Searcy eventually served as student body president at West, but a real career in politics wasn't on his radar at the time. He went on to graduate from Appalachian State University and then from law school at the University of Tulsa in 2004. He got his first taste of politics that year, helping to work on Patsy Keever's campaign for the state's 11th Congressional District, a race that she ultimately lost. Searcy then founded a couple of different companies, moving to the Triangle-Research Park area, and in 2016. After selling one of the companies, he made his way back into politics after the controversial House Bill 2 motivated him to "get off the sideline," he said. He's lived in Wake County since 2013, and said the big issues of his recent campaign were public education, including increasing teacher pay and per-pupil spending to at least the national average, and expanding Medicaid to bring health care and jobs to the people of the state. Voters were also concerned with recent power grab-moves by the Republican-led General Assembly, he said." (Blue Ridge Now, [11/8/18](#))

SD18 (Franklin, Wake)

Republican John Alexander defeated challenger Mack Paul to become the only Wake County Republican to hold onto a legislative seat this election. "Not all news was good for Democrats. Republican Sen. John Alexander defeated challenger Mack Paul, a Democrat. Both live in Raleigh." (News & Observer, [11/7/18](#))

SD19 (Cumberland)*

Kirk DeViere upset incumbent Republican Wesley Meredith in a race that is still within the margin for a recount, though experts predict DeViere will take home a victory. "Cheers and applause

erupted among the cadre of Democrats and Kirk deViere supporters watching the election returns when it became clear just after 10:30 p.m. — the former Fayetteville City Councilman had defeated four-term incumbent Wesley Meredith for the state Senate 19 race. According to unofficial returns, deViere led Meredith with 29,501 votes to 29,195, or 50.26 percent to 49.74 percent. Only 306 votes separated them. “This is a people’s win. This is not my win,” deViere said. “I think today we saw a critical vote. I think we saw a turn, hopefully across our state, not just here in Cumberland County, where people chose — they chose people over party. ... I think they chose unity over division.” Meredith, reached by text message late Tuesday, thanked the people of Cumberland County for their support. Meanwhile, in Senate District 21, incumbent Democrat Ben Clark easily defeated Republican challenger Timothy Leever. Clark took 71 percent of the vote, to Leever’s 29 percent. Senate 21 serves Hoke County and part of Cumberland County. The Meredith-deViere campaign was among the hardest fought and most expensive in Fayetteville and Cumberland County. As of Oct. 20, Meredith had spent nearly \$1.2 million in this election, compared with deViere’s \$531,000. Since Oct. 20, the Democrats put more than \$175,000 into deViere’s race, a sign that they sensed they could win.” (Fayetteville Observer, [11/7/18](#))

Editorial: “Our View: Waves, ripples and the road ahead” “But the margin of victory is razor-thin, just 306 votes, according to the election night tally. That may change during the coming week’s board of elections canvass and tally of provisional ballots, but at the current total, Meredith could demand a recount. Still, it’s rare that a 300-vote margin gets erased in recounts, and DeViere is likely to become Fayetteville’s next senator.” (Fayetteville Observer, Editorial, [11/7/18](#))

SD24 (Alamance, Randolph)

Incumbent Rick Gunn edged out challenger J.D. Wooten with 54.83 percent to Wooten’s 45.07. “Republican State Sen. Rick Gunn beat challenger Democrat J.D. Wooten with 54.93 percent to 45.07 percent of the vote with all precincts reporting at 11 p.m., based on unofficial election results Tuesday, Nov. 6. This will be Gunn’s fifth term in the N.C. Senate. Gunn, 60, was a graduate of Williams High School and received a B.S. in business from UNC-Chapel Hill. He is president of Gunn & Associates Commercial Real Estate. Wooten, 33, is a veteran of the U.S. Air Force and graduate of the Air Force Academy. He works with Womble Bond Dickinson as a property attorney. As of 11 p.m., Gunn had received 30,486 votes, while Wooten received 25,013 votes.” (Burlington Times-News, [11/6/18](#))

SD25 (Anson, Richmond, Rowan, Scotland, Stanly)

Incumbent Republican Tom McInnis bested challenger Helen Probst Mills in Senate Race. “In one of the most closely watched and hotly contested state legislative races, Republican Sen. Tom McInnis defeated Democrat Helen Probst Mills Tuesday, receiving more than 57 percent of the vote according to complete but unofficial returns. Redrawn to now include Moore County, the 25th District was one several key General Assembly races in which Democrats hoped it could defeat a Republican incumbent to break the GOP’s supermajority in the Senate. The district also includes Richmond, Scotland and Anson counties. With all 63 precincts reporting, McInnis, garnered 41,341 votes to 30,906 for Mills. In Moore County, McInnis received 24,701 votes to 15,150 for Mills, who is from Pinehurst. “My family and I are very humbled and thankful for the support we received throughout the 25th district,” McInnis said in a telephone interview from Moore County Republican headquarters in Pinehurst. “We are excited to now represent Moore County, one of America’s best retirement and resort communities.” McInnis, a two-term Richmond County resident, said he was “extremely thankful” for the support from the Moore County Republican Party.” (Southern Pines Pilot, [11/7/18](#))

SD27 (Guilford)

It is still unclear if Incumbent Republican Trudy Wade will challenge her razor-thin loss to Michael Garrett. “Local businessman Michael Garrett’s narrow margin of victory over state Sen. Trudy Wade is the only Guilford County race currently within the reach of a mandatory recount. But county elections

director Charlie Collicutt said Wednesday that two others are close enough they conceivably could fall into the recount category depending on results of next week's post-election canvass. "We have just over 1,000 provisional ballots and probably a few hundred by-mail ballots" that would be counted during that time and could factor into the final determination, Collicutt said." (Greensboro News & Record, [11/7/18](#))

Headline: "Michael Garrett's Senate seat win could help ensure Republicans no longer have a supermajority" "A local Democratic candidate's win could be helping the entire party across the state. Senate District 27 candidate Michael Garrett defeated Republican opponent Trudy Wade by less than 800 votes during the midterm election. "It is an honor of a lifetime," Garrett said. Wade's loss is one of the races that could be taking away the Republican supermajority in the North Carolina Senate. The House also lost its supermajority this election. We sat down with Jason Husser, an associate professor of political science at Elon University, to figure out what exactly that means for you. "Gov. Cooper essentially had no veto power, no legislative authority for the last two years because anything he vetoed could be overturned by the General Assembly," Husser said. "Now, that's changed." Husser says Republicans are still in the driver's seat but they will need to work closer with the governor and Democrats to get things passed." (Fox8, [11/7/18](#))

Trudy Wade conceded the race on November 8. "I remain humbled and honored that the people of the 27 the District have entrusted me with their voice in the state Senate. This was a spirited campaign about important issues facing our families and communities, from investing in our public schools and teachers to making healthcare more accessible and affordable. I am ready to get to work. I want to thank Senator Trudy Wade for her service to Guilford County and the State of North Carolina. Public service is not an easy endeavor and it is not done without sacrifice, and I wish her the best." (Michael Garrett Press Release, 11/8/18)

SD41 (Mecklenburg)

Republican Jeff Tarte lost to challenger Natasha Marcus who carried traditionally Republican areas like Huntersville "A decade ago, Charlotte and Mecklenburg County were becoming increasingly Democratic, but the GOP was still a powerful voice in local politics. After all, Republican Pat McCrory was finishing his seventh term as Charlotte's mayor. The GOP held four of 11 seats on the City Council, and three of nine seats on the County Commission. That's what makes what happened on Tuesday so stunning. [...] In north Mecklenburg, Republican Jeff Tarte lost to Democrat Natasha Marcus in the NC Senate in a newly redrawn district. She won in traditionally Republican areas like Huntersville." (WFAE, 11/7/18)

Marcus had 56.77 percent to Tarte's 43.23 percent. "Democrats won most Mecklenburg County House and Senate seats Tuesday night with with all precincts reporting. In notable Charlotte area races, GOP state Sen. Jeff Tarte, trying for a fourth term, trailed Democrat Natasha Marcus in a redrawn District 41 which stretches along west Mecklenburg from Iredell County to the South Carolina line. Marcus had 56.77 percent and Tarte had 43.23 percent." (Charlotte Observer, [11/8/18](#))

Constitutional Amendments

The “power grab” amendments were issued a sound defeat, earning only 30-40 percent of the vote. Tax Cap, Voter ID, and the Hunting/Fishing amendments all passed, but with significant opposition, while Marsy’s Law/Victims’ rights passed with a wide margin. Marsy’s Law passed in six other two states after a \$72 million campaign largely funded by embattled former Broadcom CEO Henry Nicholas. Three of the four amendments that passed will require enacting legislation (only tax cap does not), so we’ll be following this closely in the coming weeks as the General Assembly heads back into session at the end of November.

| Amendments | Against | For | W/L |
|--------------------|---------|--------|-----|
| Judicial Vacancy | 66.90% | 33.10% | W |
| Board of Elections | 61.65% | 38.35% | W |
| Voter ID | 44.48% | 55.52% | L |
| Tax Cap | 42.63% | 57.37% | L |
| Hunting/Fishing | 42.87% | 57.13% | L |
| Marsy's Law | 37.89% | 62.11% | L |

“NC voters OK voter ID, tax cap, crime victims, hunting amendments.” “North Carolina voters have approved constitutional amendments that will lock in recent state income tax cuts, expand crime victims’ rights and affirm so-called “traditional” methods of hunting and fishing. An amendment to the state constitution approved on Tuesday caps the maximum state income tax at 7 percent, down from 10 percent. Critics said the result could mean that a recession could lead legislators to raise sales or property taxes or impose cutbacks on education, safety and other government services. A constitutional change that would expand guarantees to crime victims was approved in exchange for a predicted cost of about \$11 million per year.” (AP, [11/6/18](#))

“N.C. voters reject constitutional amendments limiting governor’s power.” “Proposed constitutional amendments that would limit the governor’s power over state appointments have failed. An amendment that would restructure the state elections board and limit the governor’s power to appoint its members, as well as another that would give the legislature a significant role in who is picked to fill judicial vacancies, lost by large margins. These were the amendments Gov. Roy Cooper fought to keep off the ballot and those which the state’s five living governors, both Republicans and Democrats, opposed. North Carolina voters were in favor of adding more rights for crime victims, an income-tax cap, protection for hunting and fishing, and a requirement for voters to show photo identification to the state constitution. The amendments unleashed ad campaigns both for and against them. The state Democratic Party, a coalition of organizations that included the North Carolina ACLU, the state NAACP and Democracy North Carolina, and a handful of grassroots organizations opposed all the amendments. A political action committee called Stop Deceptive Amendments spent more than \$7.7 million to oppose them, with most of its attention focused on the two that failed, campaign director Justin Guillory said in an email.” (Asheboro Courier-Tribune, [11/7/18](#))

Voter ID

“The GOP supermajority will write a new voter ID law before more Democrats take office”
“Republican state legislators in North Carolina plan to write more laws this month to take advantage of the last weeks that they hold a veto-proof majority. On Tuesday, voters approved four additions to the state constitution. At least two, and possibly three, will require changes to state law: a photo ID requirement for voters, expansion of crime victims’ rights, and protections for hunting and fishing. The

fourth constitutional amendment voters approved will lower the cap on the state income tax from 10 percent to 7 percent. Those constitutional changes will take effect on Nov. 27, when the state elections board certifies results, said Gerry Cohen, former general counsel to the General Assembly. Legislative leaders have scheduled their session to resume that day. Also on Tuesday, voters kept Republicans in control of the House and Senate but reduced their majorities enough that they won't be able to block Democratic Gov. Roy Cooper's vetoes without help from Democrats. But the new balance of power won't take effect until lawmakers' regular session in January. Legislative leaders have said they planned to take action on voter ID in the November session. Pat Ryan, a spokesman for Senate leader Phil Berger, said Wednesday that staff was just beginning to work on the voter ID and victims' rights laws, and it was too soon to say what the proposals would look like." (Charlotte Observer, [11/7/18](#))

“Details of NC’s new voter ID requirement still need to be worked out” “North Carolina voters on Tuesday agreed to write into the state constitution a requirement that people show photo identification before being allowed to vote. What exactly that means for future elections and state voters still must be determined, however. Lawmakers plan to return to Raleigh after Thanksgiving to hammer out details such as the types of IDs that will be accepted. Pat Ryan, a spokesman for Senate President Pro Tem Phil Berger, said legislative leaders are already drafting legislation for that special session and will spend the couple of weeks reviewing legal precedent and the best practices from other states with voter ID laws.” (WRAL, [11/7/18](#))

Marsy’s Law

Forbes: “Billionaire-Backed 'Marsy's Law' Ballot Measures Pass In Six States, Thanks To \$72 Million Push” “Henry Nicholas is six states closer to making his Marsy's Law the national standard. Voters approved ballot measures creating a “victims’ bill of rights” in a half-dozen states, bankrolled by the billionaire cofounder of semiconductor firm Broadcom. Those states join five others that have already enacted a version of Marsy's Law, which gives crime victims certain rights, including a formal notice of criminal proceedings and the ability to be present and speak at such proceedings. “It is gratifying to know that innocent victims of crime in these six states will not have to suffer the injustices that my family endured upon my sister’s murder,” Nicholas wrote in a press release. "These are rights that all Americans deserve." Nicholas (net worth: \$3.3 billion) spent \$71.8 million across the six states that put Marsy's Law on the ballot, according to campaign filings from each state. Of that, 97% comes from his Marsy's Law For All foundation, which Nicholas funds himself.” (Forbes, [11/7/18](#))

Other Races

Democrats swept all three NC Court of Appeals races, winning close victories in statewide election. John Arrowood, the first openly gay person elected to statewide office in NC, retained the seat to which he was appointed by Gov. Roy Cooper following the retirement of Republican Judge Doug McCullough. Toby Hampson and Allegra Collins were elected to seats being vacated by two retiring Republican judges.

Faris Dixon was elected the first black man to hold the DA office in Pitt County. The county also elected its first black female sheriff in Paula Dance. In Wake County, Gerald Baker overcame significant odds to defeat longtime incumbent sheriff Donnie Harrison.

| Race | Dem | Rep | | Dem % | Rep % | W/L |
|----------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|------------------|--------|--------|-----|
| NC Court of Appeals Seat 1 | John Arrowood | Andrew Heath | n/a | 50.68% | 49.32% | W |
| NC Court of Appeals Seat 2 | Toby Hampson | Jefferson Griffin | Sandra Alice Ray | 48.68% | 35.80% | W |
| NC Court of Appeals Seat 3 | Allegra Collins | Chuck Kitchen | Michael Monaco | 48.47% | 46.95% | W |

| Race | Dem | Rep | Dem % | Rep % | W/L |
|-------------------------------|--------------|-----------------|--------|--------|-----|
| Wake County Sheriff | Gerald Baker | Donnie Harrison | 54.63% | 45.37% | W |
| Pitt County District Attorney | Faris Dixon | William Perry | 52.08% | 47.92% | W |

Court of Appeals

Headline: “Democrats win seats on top NC courts” “Democrat Anita Earls has unseated an incumbent to join the North Carolina Supreme Court. The longtime civil rights lawyer from Durham defeated Associate Justice Barbara Jackson and Raleigh lawyer Chris Anglin on Tuesday. Earls’ victory means Democrats now hold five of the seven seats on the state’s highest court. In 2016, Republicans held a 4-3 advantage. Earls led the Southern Coalition for Social Justice when she helped sue over legislative and congressional districts and challenged a voter ID law. Jackson and Anglin both ran as Republicans in the officially partisan election, but legislators cancelled party primaries this year, leading to multiple candidates. Anglin was a registered Democrat but switched parties just before filing. Unhappy GOP lawmakers passed a last-minute law to keep Anglin’s Republican label off ballots, but courts threw it out. Earls took home 49 percent of the vote, compared with Jackson’s 34 percent and Anglin’s 16 percent. On the Court of Appeals, incumbent Democrat John Arrowood was narrowly defeating Republican Andrew T. Heath with most precincts reporting. Tobias “Toby” Hampson, a Democrat, defeated Republicans Jefferson Griffin and Sandra Alice Ray. And Allegra Katherine Collins, also a Democrat, was ahead of Republican Chuck Kitchen with most precincts reporting.” (Fayetteville Observer, [11/7/18](#))

Wake Sheriff

Headline: “He lacked money and name recognition. But he pulled off Wake’s biggest upset Tuesday.” “Gerald Baker’s win in the Wake County sheriff’s race on Tuesday came as a surprise to many people who figured Sheriff Donnie Harrison would cruise into a fifth term in office. Baker, a Democrat who spent 28 years as a deputy in Wake, raised about \$15,000 for his campaign. Harrison, a Republican with deep Wake County roots, raised nearly \$200,000. On social media Baker’s campaign has 16 Twitter followers and 98 Facebook likes, perhaps a sign that he lacks name recognition. (He is no

relation to the late John Baker, a former NFL defensive lineman who served as Wake's sheriff for years until Harrison unseated him in 2002.) Harrison's popularity was evident in his previous re-election bids, earning as much as 66 percent of the vote. But Baker's success this week likely reflects a larger "blue wave" in Wake County, where voters tilted heavily Democratic, and also his liberal stance on a controversial immigration program. He won more than 54 percent of the vote Tuesday, according to early returns. Democrats claimed all but one of the state legislative races in Wake County, and they kept all seven seats on the Board of Commissioners." (News & Observer, [11/7/18](#))

Headline: "Incoming Wake sheriff vows to end immigration program, promises more accountability by deputies" "One day after he upset longtime Wake County Sheriff Donnie Harrison in Tuesday's election, Gerald Baker promised to make changes in the sheriff's office as soon as he takes charge. Baker, a Democrat who has worked in the sheriff's office for 28 years, defeated Harrison, a Republican who was seeking his fifth term in office, by a 55 to 45 percent margin, according to unofficial election results. "One standard is going to apply for this office. That's what we're trying to do here, not one, two or three different standards according to who you are," Baker said in an interview Wednesday. Building more trust with the public and accountability among his deputies is a priority, he said." (WRAL, [11/7/18](#))

- **Headline: "New sheriff: No 5th term for Wake County Sheriff Donnie Harrison"** (WTVD, [11/7/18](#))
- **ThinkProgress: "ICE-friendly sheriffs suffer major losses in midterm elections"** ([11/7/18](#))

Pitt County

Headline: "Dance, Dixon reflect on sheriff and DA wins in Pitt County" "The new sheriff and district attorney in Pitt County are both reflecting on what it will mean to be the first African Americans to serve in these positions. Paula Dance was elected sheriff while Faris Dixon was elected district attorney. Dance says, "I never ran on being an African American. I never ran on being a woman. I ran on qualifications and experience and the people answered." Dixon says he never really considered his race during the campaign either, but says diverse backgrounds can only help create change from the inside and for those looking in. Dixon says, "I hope it does encourage some kids to come to the legal field or law enforcement that they wouldn't have thought of before." Calvin Henderson, Pitt County NAACP President says, "It's remarkable to see this type of wave across where people of color are beginning to take their rightful place." Henderson hopes the election of Dance and Dixon will lead to solutions to his concerns over judicial issues like sentencings and pre-trial policies." (WITN, [11/7/18](#))

Headline: "New sheriff, DA and district court judge state priorities" "Pitt County's newly elected sheriff, district attorney and district court judge said they are ready to start the learning process and eager to serve the public as they step into their leadership roles. Sheriff-Elect Paula Dance said her background should help her get off to a quick start. "Because of my time and experience in the sheriff's office I don't have to learn how the sheriff's office operates, so that was always an advantage for me," she said. "That allows me the ability to hit the ground running on Day One and tackle the issues that not only face Pitt County but face North Carolina and other states surrounding us." One issue is getting body cameras for deputies, Dance said. Other priorities include addressing school safety and the opioid crisis. Dance did not offer specifics on her plans. With a swearing-in date of Dec.3, Dance said she has a lot to do to get ready for the transition, including forming a senior leadership team that will help her with the day-to-day operations of the office." (Greenville Daily Reflector, [11/8/18](#))

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